THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission, which is the official agency for poverty estimation, has estimated the percentage of poor in rural areas at 27.1% of the rural population on the basis of 55th round (1999-2000) of the Household Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). However, the poverty estimates released by the Planning Commission do not show figures separately for farmers because the data collected through the NSSO survey does not permit the estimation of poverty by occupation groups. It may, however, be mentioned that around 70% of the rural population depend on agriculture for livelihood. However, about 62% of the farmers in the country operate holdings of less than 1 hectare while 19% operate holdings of 1 to 2 hectares of land.

(c) A study entitled "State of Indian Farmers-A Millennium Study" has been undertaken with focus on problems facing farmers. The study consists of two phases. Phase-I pertains to preparation of papers by experts on 25 identified subjects relating to agriculture, covering a wide range of subjects like land resources, water resources, rural infrastructure, agricultural extension, agricultural credit, horticultural development, animal husbandry, terms of trade and cost of cultivation and farm income. All the papers have been prepared and brought out as individual reports. In addition, an overview based on all individual reports has also been brought out. Phase-II of the study relates to Situation Assessment Survey on conditions of Indian farmers, which has been entrusted to the NSSO. The field work for the survey was conducted as part of the 59th Round with agricultural year 2002-03 (July-June) as the reference period. The reprot of the survey is under preparation and is expected to be completed by October 2005.

Relief to gas victims of M.P.

†4670. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that share of Government of India as well as the Madhya Pradesh Government has been fixed at 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively in the schemes being run for the gas victims;

(b) whether 75 per cent amount is due to be paid by Government of India for recurring expenditure also; and

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that funds are being provided to Madhya

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Pradesh Government as per the said agreement for the rehabilitation schemes being run for the gas victims?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Earlier, the Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan for the Medical, Social, Economic and Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas victims with a total outlay of Rs.163.10 crore which was increased in stages to an outlay of Rs.258 crore. This outlay was to be shared between the Government of India and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The Central Government has already released its entire share of Rs.193.50 crore and the Action Plan has been completed in the year 1999-2000. The State Government has been informed that further funds required by them for continuously running rehabilitation programmes as envisaged in the Action Plan should be provided as a part of the State Plan in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Supply of Phosphoric Acid

†4671. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fertilizer plants in the country are not getting supply of phosphoric acid;

(b) if so, whether the crisis of supply of D.A.P. is likely to arise as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to tackle this crises?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The manufacturers/importers are free to import fertilizer raw materials/intermediates including phosphoric acid in the country. The manufacturers of phosphatic fertilizer are procuring phosphoric acid either from their Joint Ventures abroad or from the international suppliers of phosphoric acid at the price and terms & conditions negotiated by them. To ensure constant supply of phosphoric acid the Phosphatic fertilizer manufacturers have formed Phosphoric Acid Consumer Group (PACG) to negotiate the quantity & price of phosphoric acid with the international suppliers on year-to-year basis. PACG has already started negotiations for procuring phosphoric acid during the year 2005-06.

(c) DAP is a decontrolled fertilizer and its availability depends on market forces of demand & supply. The Government is keeping a watch on

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